

OCA 86-1693

15 May 1986

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(Retirement)*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Hearing on S 2197 the "Early Out" Bill

1. On 15 May 1986 the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee held its first hearing on S 2197, the Roth Stevens "early out" bill. Chairman Roth (R., DE.) presided and was joined briefly by Senators Eagleton (D., MO.) and Gore (D., TN.) In his opening remarks the Chairman stated that he considered S 2197 a "first draft" and was seeking input from the administration, government agencies and federal employee organizations. The purpose of the bill is to reduce the federal debt, provide broadened retirement opportunity, and open jobs for younger persons and minorities.

2. Constance Horner, Director of the Office of Personnel Management spoke for the administration. She said that the bill would accomplish the purpose of reducing the federal work force, but spelled out a number of pitfalls inherent in any government-wide "early out" bill. Senator Eagleton sought to get an estimate on how many of the eligible employees would take advantage of it. Ms. Horner conceded that she did not have such an estimate and the Senator asked her to come up with one for the Committee.

3. Additional witnesses from GAO, the Postal Service and from federal employees organizations also presented their views. At this time no further hearings are scheduled by the Committee and there is no active legislation on this issue in the House. Thus it does not appear that rapid action on this issue is imminent. OCA will watch it very closely, however, because it contains a hiring freeze provision that could be very damaging to the Agency personnel program.

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